Patent Application No. 09/592,596
Amdt. Dated February 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2006

Docket No. SAM1.PAU.67

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action of November 2, 2006, in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-referenced patent application.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 6 and 11-13 of co-pending Application No. 09/592,598, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696 ("Saito"). The Examiner has again noted a Terminal Disclaimer filed by Applicant on June 10, 2005 to overcome the double patenting rejections, but has again maintained the rejections pending official decision by the office paralegal regarding acceptance of the Terminal Disclaimer. Applicant notes the Examiner's remarks in this regard, and reserves the right to provide further arguments and/or documents (including additional Terminal Disclaimers) in support of allowance of the claims in case the Terminal Disclaimer is not accepted.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,133,847 ("Yang"). Rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed because, for at least the following reasons, the references, alone or in combination, do not

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disclose all of the claimed limitations.

As per **Claim 1**, Saito does not disclose providing user interfaces in a first network including first devices interconnected via a communication medium and at least one interface device connecting said first network to at least a second network having interconnected second devices. Saito does not disclose obtaining information from said first devices currently connected to the first network wherein the information includes graphical and/or textual information. Saito does not disclose obtaining information from the interface device about the second devices connected to the second network. Col. 21, lines 5-10 and 50-60, of Saito (relied on by the Examiner) do not disclose such limitations.

Further, the Examiner has interpreted Saito to disclose first and second network 203 connected by an interface device 210, and obtaining information from devices connected to first and second networks. However, Saito does not disclose: "(b) obtaining information from the interface device about the second devices connected to the second network, said information including graphical and/or textual information." And, in col. 21, lines 50-60, Saito does not require that the service information in the ROM about A/C 213 or M/O 214 comprises "graphical and/or textual information," as required by Claim 1. Nowhere does Saito disclose such limitations.

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As the Examiner also states, Saito does not disclose: "(c) generating a user interface description based at least on the obtained information, the user interface description including: (1) at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said first devices that are currently connected to the first network, and (2) at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said second devices that are currently connected to the second network; and displaying a top level user interface based on the user interface description on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying user interfaces; and (d) displaying a control user interface on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying user interfaces, for user control of one or more of said first and second devices, by: using a reference in the user interface description, the reference corresponding to a first device or a second device, to perform the steps of: using said reference to access the associated information stored in said corresponding device; generating the control user interface including device data corresponding to said corresponding device using the accessed information stored in said corresponding device; and displaying the control user interface for user control of said corresponding device, " as required by Claim 1.

However, the Examiner states that Yang discloses all of these limitations, and that a combination of Saito and Yang teaches the claimed limitations. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Yang is Non-Analogous Art

Yang is directed to a remote control device is that is able to be programmed after initial

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manufacture to accommodate the control of additional apparatuses. The remote control device

includes a multi-functional, interchangeable user interface where the interface is modified such

that it is able to control the functions of a variety of different types of apparatuses. (Yang,

Abstract). Yang is non-analogous to a method for providing user interfaces in a first network

including first devices interconnected via a communication medium and at least one interface

device connecting said first network to at least a second network having interconnected second

devices, the user interfaces for controlling the devices that are currently connected to the first

network and devices that are currently connected to the second network, as claimed.

Yang does not Disclose a Top Page Including References to Devices in Two Networks

In col. 4, lines 15-38 and 30-58; col. 5, lines 32-46, and col. 5 line 33 to col. 6 line 58

(relied on by the Examiner), Yang does not disclose the claimed limitations. There is no

disclosure in Yang of a case in which initially information is obtained from the appliances in two

networks, to generate a top page that includes references for access to control user interface of

corresponding appliances in both networks.

The Office Action fails to meet the burden of showing that Yang discloses generating a

user interface description based at least on the obtained information from two networks. Yang is

directed to a remote control device is that is able to be programmed after initial manufacture to

accommodate the control of additional apparatuses. No user interface description is generated or

needed in Yang. Yang's remote 100 access a memory 120 in the remote 100 for appliance

information, to display that information. This has nothing to do with the claimed limitations.

The Office Action fails to meet the burden of showing that Yang discloses that Yang

generates a user interface description including: (1) at least one graphical and/or textual reference

of said first devices that are currently connected to the first network, and (2) at least one

graphical and/or textual reference of said second devices that are currently connected to the

second network, as claimed. Yang's remote 100 access a memory 120 in the remote 100 for

appliance information, to display that information. This has nothing to do with the claimed

limitations of a graphical user interface description including references to devices in two

networks.

Yang does not disclose the additional step of displaying a top level user interface based

on the user interface description on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying

user interfaces, as claimed.

Yang does not Disclose Control User Interfaces Contained in Appliances

Yang does not disclose that the appliances contain control user interfaces for access via a

reference, as claimed. In Yang, appliance information is in the memory 120 of the remote control

100 for access, and not in the appliances 160 themselves.

Yang does not Disclose Accessing Control User Interfaces in Appliances

Yang does not disclose that a reference in the top page is used to access control user

interface in the corresponding appliance in first or second network, to generate a user interface

for user interaction with that appliance, as claimed.

There is no disclosure in Yang of a case where the remote control 100 of Yang presents to

the user a top page with references for access to control programs contained in the appliances 160

themselves.

Yang does not disclose that the device information in each device/appliance includes a

control user interface that is accessed using the corresponding reference in the top page, to obtain

the control user interface and display the control user interface, as claimed. Indeed, Yang col. 8,

lines 19-24, lines 59-66, teaches away from such claimed limitations. Icons in Yang are not

references for direct access to control user interface information in the appliances. That is

because in Yang an icon is not used to access control user interface information in an appliance,

and then display the control user interface, as claimed. In col. 8, lines 19-24, Yang states: "The

selection of the icon would provide a control signal to the functions interface and the functions

interface would then access the control software for that appliance from memory and configure

the user interface function control panel so that it would be configured to control the appliance

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selected." Therefore, in Yang, the remote 100 accesses the memory 120 in the remote 100 itself

for appliance information, not the appliances.

Combination of Yang and Saito is not Legally Justified

Further, it is well settled that the reference itself must suggest the modification or

combination proposed in order for the modification or combination to be valid; "[the] invention

cannot be found obvious unless there was some explicit teaching or suggestion in the art to

motivate one of ordinary skill to combine elements so as to create the same invention." *Winner*

International Royalty Corp. v. Wang, No. 96-2107, 48 USPQ.2d 1139, 1140 (D.C.D.C. 1998)

(emphasis added). "The prior art must provide one of ordinary skill in the art the motivation to

make the proposed molecular modifications needed to arrive at the claimed compound." *In re*

Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ.2d 1941, 1944 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (emphasis added). There is no

suggestion from either reference that they be combined or modified as proposed by the Office

Action and, in fact, even the Office Action fails to provide the necessary impetus for the

modification. In addition, the references teach away from Applicant's claimed invention and do

not provide any suggestion for their combination or modification.

Yang is directed to a home with devices in it, and a remote control for controlling those

devices. There is no mention, suggestion of first and second networks with appliances to be

controlled by the remote control. Indeed, the remote control 100 of Yang access device

information in the memory 120 to control the appliances, and cannot control devices in two

networks.

Modifying Saito According to Yang does not Yield the Claimed Limitations

Modifying Saito according to Yang as suggested by the Examiner does not yield the

claimed limitations since the result would still be a remote control 100 that controls devices in

one network, by accessing device information in the memory 120 of the remote control 100

itself. The remote control 100 of Yang in system of Saito, as suggested by the Examiner,

provides no ability to obtain information about devices in two networks, and then control devices

in the two networks by accessing control user interface information of devices in the two

networks, as claimed. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have any reasonable expectation

that a combination of Saito and Yang would work as the Examiner suggests. It is respectfully

submitted that for at least these reasons, rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent

therefrom, should be withdrawn.

As per **Claim 2**, Yang does not disclose an interface device, wherein said interface device

includes information about the second devices, as claimed. In col. 4, lines 15-38 (relied on by the

Examiner), Yang mentions a user interface 140 that displays information from memory 120 of

the remote control 100. The user interface 140 of Yang is not an interface device connecting said

first network to at least a second network having interconnected second devices, as claimed.

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Further, the user interface 140 of Yang does not include information about devices in a second network, as claimed.

Regarding Claim 4, Saito does not disclose that the interface device includes an address extension table for the second devices and that obtaining information from the interface device further includes the steps of using the address extension table to access said second devices. In col. 24, line 41 to col. 25, line 3, Saito discusses using port addresses in the PC 210 for the connecting devices 213 and 214, which is different from an address extension table because the port addresses in Saito do not form a table. Nor does not Saito teach an extension table that includes IP addresses for the second devices in the second network.

Regarding Claim 5, Saito does not disclose that the interface device is a bridge device. Saito has no mention of a bridge for connecting two different networks. Applicant respectfully disagrees that such a limitation is inherent in Saito's system. Indeed, Saito teaches away from using bridges (col. 12, lines 31 - 34 and col. 17, lines 43-57).

Regarding Claim 6, Saito and Yang do not disclose displaying one or more top level user interfaces each based on a user interface description, on one or more devices connected to the first network capable of displaying a user interface, for user control of said first and second devices, as claimed.

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Further, col. 6, lines 7-47 in Yang (relied on by the Examiner) mentions the display of appliance information from memory 120 of the remote 100 on user interface 140 of the remote 100. However, Yang does not teach generating a user interface description, and does not teach generating a user interface based on such a user interface description. The user interface 140 in Yang cannot display information about devices in first and second networks. Further, the remote control 100 in Yang does not allow user control appliances in first and second networks, as claimed. A combination of Yang and Saito is not legally justified (as discussed in relation to Claim 1), and such a combination does not teach the claimed limitations since modifying Saito according to Yang as suggested by the Examiner results in the remote control 100 that controls devices in one network, by accessing device information in the memory 120 of the remote control 100 itself. The remote control 100 of Yang in system of Saito, as suggested by the Examiner, provides no ability to obtain information about devices in two networks, and then display device information for the two networks, as claimed. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have any reasonable expectation that a combination of Saito and Yang would work as the Examiner suggests.

Regarding Claim 7, Saito and Yang do not disclose generating a user interface description, as claimed. Nor does Yang teach displaying each top level user interface further includes the steps of: using each reference in the corresponding user interface description to

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access the associated information stored in each device; generating the top level user interface

including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each

device; and displaying the top level user interface on said device capable of displaying a user

interface, as claimed.

In col. 6, lines 7-47 in Yang (relied on by the Examiner), mentions display of appliance

information from memory 120 of the remote 100 on user interface 140 of the remote 100. As

such, Yang does not teach displaying a top level user interface by using each reference in the

corresponding user interface description to access the associated information stored in each

device, as claimed. A combination of Yang and Saito is not only legally unjustified, but does not

teach the claimed limitations.

Regarding Claim 8, Saito and Yang do not disclose generating a user interface

description further comprises the steps of associating a hyper-text link with the device

information of one or more of said first and second devices. Yang (col. 4, lines 15-55) teaches no

capability for the remote control 100 to display information about devices in two networks.

Further, Yang (col. 4, lines 15-55) or elsewhere, teaches nothing about hyper-text links or

associating hyper-text links with devices in networks. The data link 150 in Yang is not a hyper-

text link, as claimed. A combination of Yang and Saito, is not only legally unjustified, but does

not teach the claimed limitations.

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Regarding Claims 9 and 10, Yang and Saito do not disclose that each device includes a

user control interface description for user interaction with the device, and generating each user

interface description such that each reference in that user interface description is to at least the

user control interface description in each corresponding device.

As discussed, Yang and Saito do not disclose generating a user interface description to

being with. Yang, col. 4, lines 15-65 (relied on by the Examiner), mentions display of appliance

information from memory 120 of the remote 100 on user interface 140 of the remote 100. There

is no reference in the user interface 140 of Yang to any control interface description in

appliances. The user interface 140 uses information in the memory 120 of the remote control

100. Yang, makes that abundantly clear in col. 3, lines 50-56, by stating:

> "Because remote control 100 has the capability to control various appliances, and
> has *programming code for controlling all of these appliances stored in memory
> 120* of the remote control device, the remote control device must know which
> appliance it is to control and, therefore, which software programming code *to
> retrieve from memory 120 in order to control that particular appliance.*"
> (emphasis added).

As such, Yang only mentions display of appliance information from memory 120 of the

remote 100 on user interface 140 of the remote 100. There is no reference in the user interface

140 of Yang to any control interface description in the appliances themselves, nor is there a need

for such reference in Yang. A combination of Yang and Saito, is not only legally unjustified, but

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does not teach the claimed limitations.

Claims 11-27 were rejected for similar reasons as Claims 1-10, respectively. The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons provided above in relation to Claims 1-10, respectively. Therefore, for at least these reasons, rejection of Claim 11-20 should be withdrawn. Further, Claims 21-27 are allowable for similar reasons.

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CONCLUSION

For these and other reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn, and all of the claims be allowed. Accordingly, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful to the further prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

Please direct all correspondence to **Myers, Dawes Andras & Sherman, LLP**, 19900 MacArthur Blvd., 11th Floor, Irvine, California 92612.
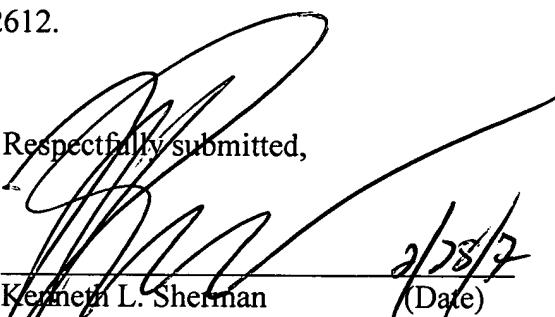

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